



Council Meeting - Agenda

CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

Chambers of the City Council Municipal Building

Thursday, March 22, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

View Consent Agenda

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OPENING OF SESSION BY: CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT STEVEN MARTINS

PRAYER LED BY: SISTER MARIANNA SYLVESTER, OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION, Councillor Gomes, in recognition and support of INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES.
2. RESOLUTION, Councillors Lawrence and Alves, Commemorating VIETNAM VETERAN'S DAY AND THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR.
3. RESOLUTION, Councillor Gonsalves, honoring the NEW BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS INDOOR SHUTTLE HURDLE RELAY TEAM on a record breaking year.

HEARINGS

4. HEARING, ORDERED, that the following petroleum license be and hereby be REVOKED: 523 Church Street – Hi-Energy Corp.– originally granted May 09, 1963 – two (2) 10,000 gallon gasoline tanks, one (1) 6,000 gallon gasoline tank and one (1) 10,000 gallon fuel oil tanks have been removed on September 15, 2007.
5. HEARING, ORDERED, that the following petroleum license be and hereby be REVOKED: 735 Mt. Pleasant Street – SACRED HEART CEMETERY – originally granted May 08, 1979 – one (1) 2,000 gallon gasoline tank has been removed May 11, 2010.
6. HEARING, NSTAR Electric Company, for location of two (2) 4" Conduits and one (1) 45" x 45" x 36" Handhole in SUMMER STREET, North of Willis Street.

- 6a. AN ORDER,

MAYOR'S PAPERS

M1. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER to acquire easements, by eminent domain, across private property located in the New Bedford Industrial Park for the extension of Flaherty Drive; and also submitting LAND TAKING for the extension of Flaherty Drive.

- M1a. AN ORDER,

- M1b. LAND TAKING,

M2. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, that the Loan Order for the remodeling, reconstruction and making extraordinary repairs to City-owned buildings, in the amount of \$2,919,000.00, approved by the City Council on July 16, 2009, and signed by the Mayor on July 23, 2009, be amended by approving a NEW EXHIBIT A, which reduces existing projects which have been completed under-budget and adds five new projects, keeping the total bond projects at \$2,919,000.00.

M2a. AN ORDER,

M2b. NEW EXHIBIT A,

M3. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$150,000.00 from SNOW, CHARGES & SERVICES to PUBLIC FACILITIES, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS.

M3a. AN ORDER,

M4. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$140,000.00 from HEALTH INSURANCE, CHARGES & SERVICES, to PUBLIC FACILITIES, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS.

M4a. AN ORDER,

M5. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$115,000.00 from HEALTH INSURANCE, CHARGES & SERVICES, to PUBLIC FACILITIES, SALARIES & WAGES.

M5a. AN ORDER,

M6. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$16,000.00 from INSPECTIONAL SERVICES, SALARIES & WAGES to ELECTIONS SALARIES & WAGES.

M6a. AN ORDER,

M7. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$5,000.00 from INSPECTIONAL SERVICES, SALARIES & WAGES to ELECTIONS CHARGES & SERVICES.

M7a. AN ORDER,

M8. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$500.00 from INSPECTIONAL SERVICES, SALARIES & WAGES to ELECTIONS, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS.

M8a. AN ORDER,

M9. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$5,000.00 from ASSESSORS, SALARIES & WAGES, to ELECTIONS, CHARGES, & SERVICES.

M9a. AN ORDER,

M10. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$15,000.00 from POLICE, SALARIES & WAGES, to PERSONNEL, CHARGES & SERVICES.

M10a. AN ORDER,

M11. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$4,500.00 from FIRE, SALARIES & WAGES, to PERSONNEL, SALARIES & WAGES.

M11a. AN ORDER,

M12. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$8,600.00 from INSPECTIONAL SERVICES, SALARIES & WAGES to LIBRARIES, SALARIES & WAGES.

M12a. AN ORDER,

M13. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$5,000.00 from PURCHASING, SALARIES & WAGES, to LIBRARY, SALARIES & WAGES.

M13a. AN ORDER,

M14. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$1,310.00 from FIRE, SALARIES & WAGES, to LIBRARY, SALARIES & WAGES.

M14a. AN ORDER,

M15. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$9,500.00 from POLICE, SALARIES & WAGES, to ZOO, CHARGES & SERVICES.

M15a. AN ORDER,

M16. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$4,065.00 from FIRE, SALARIES & WAGES to CITY CLERK, SALARIES & WAGES.

M16a. AN ORDER,

M17. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$3,350.00 from FIRE, SALARIES & WAGES to LICENSING, SALARIES & WAGES.

M17a. AN ORDER,

M18. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$2,100.00 from FIRE, SALARIES & WAGES, to CLERK OF COMMITTEES, SALARIES & WAGES.

M18a. AN ORDER,

M19. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$438.00 from PURCHASING, SALARIES & WAGES, to SOLICITORS, SALARIES & WAGES.

M19a. AN ORDER,

M20. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$50,000.00 from FIRE, SALARIES & WAGES, to FIRE, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS.

M20a. AN ORDER,

M21. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$50,000.00 from PUBLIC FACILITIES, CHARGES & SERVICES, to PUBLIC FACILITIES, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS.

M21a. AN ORDER,

M22. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$32,000.00 from DPI/HIGHWAYS, SALARIES & WAGES, to DPI/HIGHWAYS, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS.

M22a. AN ORDER,

M23. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$28,000.00 from DPI/HIGHWAYS, SALARIES & WAGES to DPI/HIGHWAYS, CHARGES/SERVICES.

M23a. AN ORDER,

M24. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$1,000.00 from DPI/HIGHWAYS, SALARIES & WAGES to DPI/HIGHWAYS, OTHER CHARGES.

M24a. AN ORDER,

M25. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$15,000.00 from FIRE, SALARIES & WAGES to FIRE, CHARGES & SERVICES.

M25a. AN ORDER,

M26. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$14,500.00 from TREASURERS, CHARGES & SERVICES to TREASURES, SALARIES & WAGES.

M26a. AN ORDER,

M27. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$1,000.00 from TREASURERS, CHARGES & SERVICES to TREASURERS, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS.

M27a. AN ORDER,

M28. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$6,453.00 from LIBRARY, CHARGES & SERVICES to LIBRARY, SALARIES & WAGES.

M28a. AN ORDER,

M29. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$5,000.00 from HEALTH, SALARIES & WAGES, to HEALTH, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS.

M29a. AN ORDER,

M30. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$1,320.00 from ASSESSORS, SALARIES & WAGES to ASSESSORS, CHARGES & SERVICES.

M30a. AN ORDER,

M31. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$1,000.00 from COMMUNITY SERVICES, SALARIES & WAGES to COMMUNITY SERVICES, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS.

M31a. AN ORDER,

M32. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$625.00 from COMMUNITY SERVICES, CHARGES & SERVICES to COMMUNITY SERVICES, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS.

M32a. AN ORDER,

M33. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$500.00 from SOLICITORS, CHARGES & SERVICES, to SOLICITORS, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS.

M33a. AN ORDER,

M34. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of DR. ATHENA XIFARAS, Dartmouth, MA, to the BOARD OF HEALTH; whose term will expire February 2014.

M35. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a WAIVER OF RESIDENCY for DR. ATHENA XIFARAS, Dartmouth, MA to the BOARD OF HEALTH; this waiver term will expire on the last day of March 2013.

M36. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of KENNETH MACHADO, New Bedford, MA to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, replacing Jennifer Vasques Gomes, who has resigned; this term will expire December 2014.

NEW BUSINESS

7. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, once again, that the City Council send a letter to President Barack Obama, along with Senator Kerry, Congressman Frank and Congressman Keating, stressing the urgency of some action being taken on the increasing gasoline prices that have hit the City of New Bedford, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the entire Country in the past six months that have been very detrimental to the recovery of the present economic situation; and further, that the City Council be the first to support a \$2.50 to \$2.75 per gallon of gasoline cap in order to stimulate the economy and that our State Delegation also join this effort; and further, we request that President Obama, Senator Kerry, Congressman Frank and Congressman Keating propose Legislation on a Federal level to keep the price of gasoline to \$2.50 to \$2.75 per gallon and that our oil producers and business leaders be made to understand the importance of how fuel affects many industries; and further, requesting, that an immediate investigation be done regarding the price gouging not only here in the Commonwealth, but across the Country in the past four to five weeks, where gasoline prices have increased by nearly twelve to sixteen cents a gallon per week, and in the opinion of this City Official, it is detrimental to the economic recovery of the City of New Bedford, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and this Country; and further, that City and State Officials continue to investigate the price gouging that is going on in the City of New Bedford and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, where the price of gas fluctuates from neighborhood to neighborhood, from Town to Town, as this issue will put us in the same situation we were in two to three years ago, when the economy started to slide due to the increasing price of gasoline that motivates everything that is needed within a household, within a business, within this Country; and further, that we ask our Federal Delegation to work through their Washington offices, letting the Federal Government know loud and clear that this gasoline situation must be addressed immediately in order to continue the economic recovery in the City of New Bedford and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and further, that the increasing costs to Cities and Towns for vehicles needed by Fire, Police, EMS, etc., that are also a burden on City budgets as the price of gasoline continues to rise; and further, that a response is requested from our Legislative Delegation and President Obama.

8. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Duarte, requesting, on behalf of SouthCoast Equality Pride, that the following street(s) be CLOSED: BARKER'S LANE, from Acushnet Avenue to Second Street, ON SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2012, FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M., for the purpose of the Fourth Annual SouthCoast Equality Pride Day.

9. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lopes, requesting, on behalf of the Cove Street Neighborhood Association that the following street(s) be CLOSED: RUTH STREET, from Salisbury Street to Ashley Street, ON SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2012, FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., their Annual Family Fun Day.

10. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Duarte, requesting, on behalf of the United Way, that the following street(s) be CLOSED: WILLIAM STREET, from North Sixth Street to Pleasant Street, ON FRIDAY, MAY 04, 2012, FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 9:00 A.M., for the purpose of their 17th Annual Youth Day of Caring Event.

11. WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Martins, requesting, on behalf of many community organizations and concerned constituents, that a representative from the Mayor's Office provide the City Council with a list of dates on which flags will be displayed throughout the year and that the matter be referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, so that the City Council can evaluate the schedule; and further, that the Administration also provide the City Council with the procedures of where and how the flags are put up, since this Councillor believes that there is some miscommunication on the procedures of the process.

12. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Coelho & Council President Martins, requesting that the Police Chief increase police patrols in the area of Tallman Street, between Acushnet Avenue and Ashley Boulevard and around P&D Mini-Mart, due to the increase in prostitution which has been disturbing the quality of life.

13. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Lopes, Alves, Coelho, Council President Martins, Councillors Duarte, Bousquet, Gonsalves, Gomes, Oliveira, Saunders and Lawrence, requesting, that the City Council ask Governor Deval Patrick and our State and Federal Delegations, to aggressively solicit the necessary funding for the Southcoast Commuter Rail from President Barack Obama's 2013 Fiscal Year Budget.

14. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Alves, requesting, due to the upcoming Spring and Summer seasons and the number of people walking in the vicinity of Buttonwood Park and in an effort to eliminate the current danger at one of the busiest intersections in the City of New Bedford and the enormous expense to install electronic walk signals on the lights to ensure safe passage for pedestrians crossing Brownell Avenue, that the Traffic Commission and the Department of Public Infrastructure install a marked crosswalk painted passageway to indicate a legal crosswalk across Brownell Avenue and crosswalk signs to allow safe passage.

15. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Alves, requesting, that the Committee on Ordinances meet with our Legal Counsel to advise the Council what we can do about dog owners allowing their dogs to drop feces all over City streets and neighborhoods and not be responsible for the clean-up, creating a walking hazard by people slipping and with Summer coming, a health hazard to youth and residents; and further, that we seek to address what can be done with signage and potential fines. (To be Referred to the Committee on Ordinances.)

16. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Alves, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with the Chief of Police, the Temporary City Planner and a representative from the Department of Public Infrastructure, to determine what can be done to provide additional safety precautions, including better lighting and sidewalk conditions, in light of the fact that recently two individuals have been found dead after walking from the Downtown area to the Fairfield Inn.

17. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Alves, requesting, that in light of the frequent and numerous accidents in which trucks have been struck under the railroad bridge near Wamsutta Mills Apartments on Acushnet Avenue, at the corner of Wamsutta Street, that the City finally recognize the danger and until the bridge improvements can be made to include raising the railroad bridge, that the Traffic Commission post the road sign (Acushnet Avenue) warning truck drivers that the road from the bridge north is closed to ALL TRUCKS; and further, that they install a TRUCK DETOUR ROUTE SIGN, so that truck drivers must turn right onto Wamsutta Street and continue north to North Front Street, thus providing truck drivers an adequate warning and legal restriction to eliminate future potential problems. (To be Referred to the Traffic Commission.)

18. WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Martins, requesting, that after a full investigation into the events of March 16-17, 2012, is completed, that the owner of International Parallel Machines, Inc., located at 50, 56 and 58 Conduit Street pay all costs incurred by public safety officials and inspectional services used during the investigation of an underground club located in the mill at 50 Conduit Street; and further, that if it is determined that this structure was not code compliant, that all possible fines be levied against the owners; and further, that Chief Provencher be invited to a Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meeting to update the City Council as to the final cost of the investigation and to discuss establishing a regular schedule in which Police visit different mills across the City to ensure that illegal activity of this sort does not happen again.

19. WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Martins, requesting, that the City Council send a letter to the New Bedford Chamber of Commerce thanking President Roy Nascimento, the New Bedford Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Colleen Dawicki from UMASS Dartmouth Urban Initiative, for their analysis of the permitting process in Greater New Bedford, since this Council has continuously asked for a better permitting process in the City of New Bedford; and further, that their analysis be taken seriously since it summarizes MARPA's (Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies) best practices and offers recommendations that would be helpful and that are needed in our City.

20. WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Martins and Councillor Lopes, requesting, on behalf of the Commission on Citizens with Disabilities, that the Committee on Ordinances look into strengthening the language in the Motorized

Scooter Ordinance (Chapter 23, Section 25), including adding that all motorized scooters have a safety reflector and a fine attached if necessary.

21. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lopes and Council President Martins, requesting, that the area bounded northerly by the southerly line of Grit Street, from its intersection with the Hurricane Barrier to its intersection with the westerly line of West Rodney French Boulevard; bounded easterly by the westerly line of West Rodney French Boulevard from its intersection with the southerly line of Grit Street to its intersection with the Hurricane Barrier; and bounded southwesterly by the Hurricane Barrier from its intersection with the westerly line of West Rodney French Boulevard to its intersection with the southerly line of Grit Street, be established as a Mill Overlay District; and further, this block comprises Plot 15, Lot 151 and Lot 280. (To be Referred to the Committee on Ordinances and the Planning Board.)

22. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes, Gonsalves, Council President Martins, Councillors Duarte, Bousquet and Lopes, requesting, that the City Council go on record against the closing of St. John the Baptist Parish located on County Street in the City of New Bedford and that a letter be sent to the Diocese of Fall River and to the Vatican requesting their assistance in looking to give the Church more time to try to turn around the present situation and conditions that have led to the decision to close the Church in order to protect the history and the years of service that this Church has brought to the City of New Bedford and the community along with the history of it being the first Portuguese Church in the United States of America to service not only the Portuguese constituency but all those of Catholic faith; and further, that history be protected by looking in any way possible to relook at this situation of closing down this Church which would only lead to another Church closed down and only to deteriorate and bring blight to the neighborhood; and further, that if possible a meeting be held with the Diocese of Fall River and/or whoever has made this decision of closing for the purposes of trying to keep this Church open in order to serve the community; and further, requesting that Rule 40 be waived.

23. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Mayor and the Police Chief keep an ongoing effort in trying to solve the assassination of two City dogs that were killed in the Industrial Park area, that a concentrated effort be made to bring justice to the person/persons responsible for this action due to the fact that there is a lot of unanswered questions as to why two dogs would be missing for almost a month only to be assassinated in Industrial Park and that at this present time with no leads; and further, once more call on the public for their help in solving this heinous crime that was committed in our City.

24. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the New Bedford School Department evaluate its present food supply pertaining to meats and hamburgers that may possibly include pink slime and if pink slime is in any of our meat products that are within our system, that it automatically be pulled from our food supplies in the City of New Bedford and that the New Bedford School Department make it a point to feed our kids nothing but 100% ground beef in our school lunches and again this request comes on the attention that has been brought to this product that has been distributed to schools across the Country and here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to be removed from our food supplies and again that immediate action be taken if our present food vendors or meat vendors are providing our schools with this type of food product.

25. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes and Lopes, requesting, once more, that the New Bedford Public School Department, Superintendent of Schools and the School Committee provide the City Council with a breakdown of its budget that will be coming before the City Council in June, that the breakdown be made so that the City Council can get a good idea of where all monies are being spent throughout the City in the system, accountability for all monies spent and to make sure that the money is well spent on behalf of providing our kids with an education, which is number one in this State and that the breakdown be given to the City Council, due to the fact that we have requested it before, and it has never been really delivered to the City Council, this gives the School Department almost two months for a breakdown of all monies spent throughout the School Department which we can identify with people, departments or programs.

26. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes and Council President Martins, requesting, that the City take action at the Nash Road Pond area located on Nash Road, that the railing on the north side of Nash Road Pond be painted as soon as possible and that signage at the railroad tracks be posted of no trespassing in this area and anyone violating that trespass notice will be prosecuted to the fullest extent by the law, also that the signage be put up as soon as possible; and further requesting, on behalf of John M. Kalisz of 404 Nash Road that NSTAR Electric and/or the City take immediate action for the purposes of painting the electrical box which is located on the south side of the railroad track on Nash Road which has

been tagged with graffiti and if the job cannot be done, that permission be given to Mr. John M. Kalisz, who will pay out of his pocket to paint the electrical box only bringing beautification to the area, that has a great investment by many business people including Mr. Kalisz.

27. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Mayor and the Police Chief take immediate action in the area of 58 Spruce Street between Maxfield Street and Sycamore Street, this area has become plagued with gang activity, problems of hanging out, other mischievous and loud noise music in that neighborhood which has been affecting the quality of life for the residents, also making it impossible for some of the homeowners in that area to rent properties due to this nuisance activity that has been going on in front of this address for some time; and further requesting, that the Department of Inspectional Services visit said property along with the Health Department to see if there are any violations within this property that needs to be addressed and that the owner of this property also be notified through the City that we are having problems with this home and it is affecting the quality of life for the residents in that area.

28. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes and Saunders, requesting, that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications meet with Jeff Costa, Chairman of Financing and Marketing, Deb Shrader, President and Committee members of the Fisherman's Tribute Fund, for the purposes of discussing the possibility of erecting a Fisherman's Memorial to be located at Monkey's Island on East Rodney French Boulevard, north of East Beach.

29. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Alves, requesting, on behalf of numerous City residents, especially the elderly, that the City Council invite a representative from Comcast to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to explain the reason for the continuing rate increase that for many feel this has become an annual situation, what can be done to curtail both the frequency and level of increase in the future.

30. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Coelho, requesting, that Ross Moran, from the Tree City Committee be invited to attend a Special Committee on Environmental Affairs meeting to update the Council as to what is being done relative to tree replacement in the City and any plan of action for neighborhoods and parks relative to new projects scheduled, the planting of new trees, and replacement of old trees, etc.

31. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Duarte and Alves, requesting, that the City Council recognize the "New Bedford Access to Opportunity Forum Initiative 2012", an awareness and outreach series focusing on education, apprenticeship, employment training and business opportunities in agricultural, construction, education, energy, environmental, fishing, health, hospitality, housing, media, technology and transportation industries, the mission of this initiative is to provide equal opportunity for residents and small businesses in the Greater New Bedford Area through a collaborative effort of networks, to reduce the unemployment rate by identifying employment opportunities for residents (both experienced and those in need of training) contracting opportunities for businesses, training and re-training local residents and emphasizing the importance of education for the local workforce. (To be Referred to Mayor Mitchell.)

32. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gonsalves, Saunders, Lopes, Alves, Council President Martins, Councillors Lawrence, Coelho, Gomes, Bousquet and Duarte, requesting, that the Committee on Ordinances explore the possibility of creating an Ordinance to address preservation issues with respect to historic churches in the City of New Bedford, in order to prevent the wholesale demolition of churches that are being vacated by various religious organizations. (To be Referred to the Committee on Ordinances.)

33. COMMUNICATION, Councillors Lopes and Alves, submitting a copy of the Boston Herald article dated March 13, 2012 entitled "Robert A. DeLeo tied to tribe flack." (To be Referred to the Special Committee on Gaming/Casinos.)

34. COMMUNICATION/EMAIL, Councillor Lopes, submitting copy of email from Sandy Bodner, Strategic Communications LLC, regarding Boston Community Capital's SUN Foreclosure Prevention Program. (To be Received and Placed on File.)

35. COMMUNICATION, Councillor Bousquet, to Election Commissioner Tomasia, submitting copy of a letter regarding the 2010 Election Ballots.

36. COMMUNICATION, JudyAnn Bigby, M.D., Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, to Councillor Gonsalves and City Clerk Arruda, responding to a Written Motion by Councillor Gonsalves at the City Council Meeting held on January 26, 2012, regarding that the Governor chose to close Taunton State Hospital in the FY 2013 Budget. (Copy all Councillors 03/09/2012.)

37. COMMUNICATION, Lynch, DeSimone & Nysten, LLP, Attorneys at Law, to DEP, Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution, regarding the Waterways Application No. W10-3060 for Trio Algarvio, Inc. (Submitted by City Clerk Arruda and Copy all Councillors 03/14/2012.)

38. COMMUNICATION, Senator John F. Kerry, to City Council Members, responding to Councillor Gomes motions on the City Council Agendas, February 09, and February 23, 2012, relative to rising costs of gas. (Copy all Councillors, March 14 and March 19, 2012.)

39. COMMUNICATION, Buzzards Bay Coalition President, Mark Rasmussen to USEPA-Region 1 Administrator Curt Spalding regarding the technical review of EPA's proposed use of a Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cell as part of the ongoing Superfund cleanup of the New Bedford Harbor. (Copy all Councillors 03/08/2012; To be Received and Placed on File.)

TABLED BUSINESS

NO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.